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the fact that one of the most expert of the assistants of the Bureau of American Ethnology spent a whole season in the great ditch dug through this gravel without finding a single specimen, is a powerful argument in favor of the contention of Holmes and McGee that those found are from the talus or within a few feet of the surface.

The finding of pottery, arrow and lance heads, and axes with Koch's mastodon in Missouri can not be said to be a scientific argument in support of a paleolithic period during which Dr. Wilson asserts man did not possess three of the four objects enumerated, it appears equally true that the drilled objects of Bourgeois hardly strengthens the theory of tertiary man if we follow correctly the argument.

European drilling, all things considered, appears to have been accomplished with better tools than were those of America, and the holes were commonly larger and drilled through harder stone than were those drilled in America. We can not expect to find any of the remains of man in the gravel of the drift which has usually ground to powder all other stones softer than flint, and the Calaveras skull alleged to be found in the auriferous gravel could hardly have survived; even the pestles and mortars found with it were like those of to-day and the skull is said not to present the appearance of a fossil.

J. D. MCGUIRE.

ELLCOTT CITY, MARYLAND.

#### A NATURALIST'S DIRECTORY.

A BOOK which recently came to this library was called to the author's attention a few days' ago. The book is entitled 'The Naturalist's Directory' and is published by L. Upcott Gill, London, 1899. In the preface it is stated that the object and purpose of the book has been so enlarged as to include all naturalists, especially of Great Britain, and we were lead to believe by this preface that the book might be of value as a directory to naturalists in general. When, however, we turned to the lists of naturalists outside of Great Britain, we were at once impressed with the incompleteness of the work, and this incompleteness is especially noticeable in the case of the United States.

Under the general head of zoology, which

includes entomology and mere collectors, as well as scientific zoologists, only thirty-three names are mentioned as pursuing this line of work in the United States. Of these names only eight or ten are of men who are at all well known. In the subjects of Microscopy and Botany, we were astounded to find that only three men in the United States were pursuing these branches of science. Of these names two are well known. According to the lists of workers in geology and paleontology, we find that the United States can boast of six men to grace these professions. Besides these interesting discoveries, we notice that there is one gentleman in the United States who is interested in Indian relics, and one other gentleman who is making a study of anthropology.

It would seem as if even in such a far away town as London, more complete information might be obtained concerning the status of scientific work in this country.

E. V. WILCOX,

U. S. DEP'T OF AGRICULTURE.

#### DR. G. W. FOSTER AND THE 'LAKESIDE MONTHLY.'

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE:—I have read with much interest, in your issue for November 17th, the sketch of my old friend Dr. J. W. Foster. One statement, however, needs correction: that "he was the editor of the *Lakeside Monthly*." Dr. Foster was for a year or two a frequent and valued contributor to the *Lakeside*, but was at no time its editor.

FRANCIS F. BROWN.

#### BOTANICAL NOTES.

##### THE WILT DISEASE OF COTTON, WATERMELON AND COWPEA.

A FEW days ago Dr. Erwin F. Smith, of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology of the United States Department of Agriculture, issued an important contribution to our knowledge of the fungi which produce plant diseases. After about five years of investigation enough facts are known to warrant the publication in a pamphlet of seventy-two pages of what the author calls a condensed account of the disease, and the fungus which causes it. The gross symptoms of the disease in the water-